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Issue

Winter 2021

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116 East Main Street Corfu NY 14036 (585) 599-3327

*Village Hours -
Monday – Friday 8am – 4pm*

*Court Hours -
Monday – Thursday 9am – 3pm*

Residents are encouraged to mail, call the office at 585-599-3327, or email clerk@corfuny.com

MASKS ARE REQUIRED



Message from Mayor Sargent

Hello Corfu Residents

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on 2020. Nearly a year ago roughly 40 residents came together to exchange ideas and start talking about what our residents would like to see in the village. Out of that conversation came quite a few ideas. The best thing I saw was the community joining together to speak openly and freely. It was everything I had hoped for and more.

Village residents brought plans for community gatherings, ideas to promote the Village of Corfu, and ways to bring people into our community. We heard you and started brainstorming ways to accomplish what you were asking for.

Two of our Trustees, Mikel Doktor and Larry Reisdorf created the Better Corfu Committee. Through this committee the ideas from our initial village meeting were brought to life. The first season long event - a Farmers Market was born. Despite many obstacles including a global pandemic, the committee made this happen. We had a successful first of many years to come, and I thank everyone that made it such a huge success!

Over the last year we were also able to bring back a 4th of July parade. It has been many years since this took place and I would love to see it continue. We were also able to hold a successful fall gathering on October 31st, that brought not only village residents but also people from surrounding areas to enjoy a fun-filled day. Finally, we ended the year with the help of the Pembroke High School Science Club who sold Christmas trees for residents to decorate their front lawns in a colorful celebration for winter holidays.

I would like to thank everyone who helped, participated, and contributed ideas. We could not have done it without you! I look forward to 2021 and the possibilities it brings. I hope you are as excited as I am to see what the future looks like in the Village of Corfu.

Mayor Thomas Sargent

Reminder:

The maintenance department will be snow blowing the sidewalks this season, to assist our equipment –

Please do not pile snow from driveways onto the sidewalks.

**** We would like to remind Village residents that under the law, the removal of snow and ice from the sidewalks is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner. The Village will try to assist in the removal of snow from the sidewalks however; this does not and will not reduce owner's responsibility. ****

Message from Trustee Lauer:

So now we are a little way into 2021 and we have to wonder if this will be a crazy and mixed up year as 2020 had been. Despite everything, including COVID19, M&T closing and the Genesee County Legislature removing sales tax revenue sharing, the Village has moved forward on many fronts that I'd like to highlight.

We can be really proud that Members of the Village Board (Trustee Mike D. and Trustee Larry R.) and a group of dedicated residents (sorry I can't name them all) formed a Corfu Beautification Committee. That group put together a plan for a Farmers Market. Trustee Larry and his team actually made it happen and happen it did with growing success through the summer. Halloween day was the dawning of the Corfu Harvest festival. The weather was perfect. The civic participation was fantastic, and the array of vendors and food items was ideal!

In 2019/2020 Trustee Mike D. and Mayor Tom took over from the recently dissolved Corfu VFW Post 9000 the holiday flag duties and made sure we honored our great country. For 2021 they are hoping to increase the number of American flags displayed throughout the Village.

For 2021 we are hoping that we can hold the annual Memorial Day Parade that is a deep tradition for the village and residents. Memorial Day 2020 certainly felt empty and it really pushed Village Mayor Tom to organize, with the help of many, one of the few 4th of July parades in NYS. Participation of local Volunteer Fire Departments was fantastic and despite missing the Pembroke High School Marching Band and Pembroke Community Band this parade was truly a successful show of patriotic pride! It was also awesome to give the graduating Seniors from our high school some recognition as they marched through the village in their caps and gowns.

Speaking of the Pembroke High School reminds me of the great year the Senior's Women Basketball team had. Basically, they could be called NYS Champions because they had their playoff run cut short by the Cuomo dictated closures. Besides being champions they did another awesome job organizing the 9th Annual Shooting For Cure! They are currently trying to host the 10th event on Thursday, January 28th. Donations can be made via Mike Wilson (mwilson@pembrokecsd.org // 585.599.4525 ext. 1210)

In 2020 we were blessed with the opening of the new federal cemetery very near us. If you have not checked it out it is on Rt 77 just North of the NYS Thruway on the East side of the road. It is our Federal Tax dollars at work.

It was nice without the dreaded Darien Lake concert traffic this past year, but it did hurt our local economy and the pleasure of visits from our Canadian friends. Commerce is a balance and hopefully Six Flags Darien Lake recovers from the pandemic in 2021.

A BIG thank you to Mary Dix and her son Thomas Dix! Because of their vision and efforts, the Union Hotel and Andrews Lanes are being salvaged and brought back to life. It is a large project but don't blink. You just might miss the magical transformation!

Some other big projects in the Village:

- The Miller's expanding and updating the old Pizza Pantry
- Village flowerpots that added a nice touch of color and were maintained by many citizens
- New sidewalk and planters on East Main...Thank you Trustee Al
- Daddio's new asphalt...Thank you Tammy!
- Finally getting into the Safety deposit box at M&T (more to come on the historical and unique documents found)

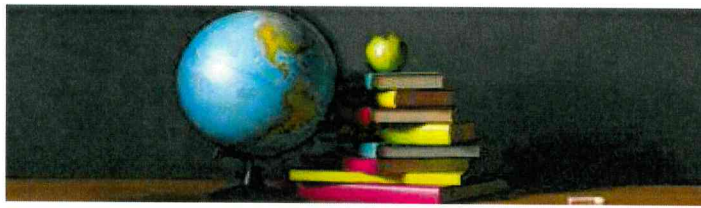
Something we don't think about much is the awesome sewage treatment this village has been able to grow and maintain. Now the Town of Pembroke has installed a plant next to our facility. Doubling the sewage capacity for the area will help our village and town grow in a more environmentally friendly way and create many new residential and economic opportunities. Trustee Al and the Camden Group certainly helped make this a reality and deserve a load of thanks keeping our Village plant running so well.

2020 has brought loss of many of the individuals who made our village unique, talented and successful. Let us take a moment to remember...David John Saleh, Charles A. Herman, Roger Kimmel and many more that we have lost this past year.

We should also be proud of the work effort of the Corfu Police Department. Throughout the confusion of the Spring and Summer the Police maintained their efforts to keep the Village safe. Just think how much more reckless the Amazon trucks could be!

Now let's see what 2021 has in store for our little community!

-Trustee Ken Lauer



Since the last newsletter there have been several events of historical significance in the Village of Corfu. The closure of M&T Bank, the small airplane crash on Boyce Road, and disbanding of the Corfu VFW.

M&T Bank

Corfu's first bank (The Bank of Corfu) opened on March 10, 1908. It opened in the Flaherty Clothing Store building at 10 East Main Street. (Later this would be Pizza Pantry / E 33 Fitness.) After several successful years here, a new bank was built on the Northeast Corner of Main and Alleghany. This brick building opened February 12, 1927.

On May 20, 1946 the Bank's Board of Director's voted to merge with M&T Bank of Buffalo. Their merger became official on July 1, 1946, and The Bank of Corfu became M&T Bank.

For the next 75 years the Bank expanded and was remodeled several times. The Bank was a vibrant part of the Corfu Community. Many community events, art shows, and bake sales were held at the Bank. The Bank had 2 robberies during its years in Corfu; September 2, 1982 and January 4, 2011.

Unfortunately, in the fall of 2020, M&T decided to close the Corfu Branch. It officially closed on December 18, 2020; the ATM remains open. We are all very sad to see them leave.

Plane Crash

The October 2, 2020 plane crash on Boyce Road, was the second deadly air crash in Corfu's History.

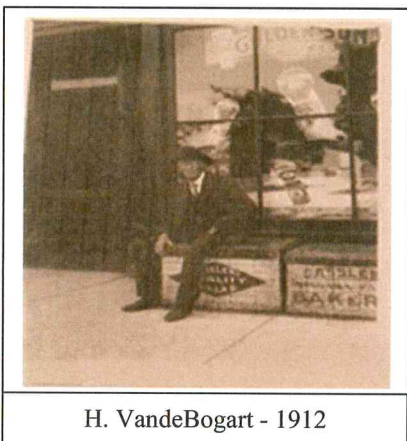
On April 24, 1950, a small plane crashed near Ganson Ave, killing 2 men. Robert Kerr (24) flew his small plane from Medina to a farm field on Genesee Street near Corfu. He landed there and picked up Robert Smith (26) to give him his first airplane ride. Mr. Kerr and Mr. Smith were friends who worked together at the A&P Store in Medina. Mr. Smith, his wife and daughter lived in an apartment near the field on Genesee Street in Corfu.

Mr. Smith climbed into the seat behind Mr. Kerr in the plane and they took off. They circled and flew over Mr. Smith's parents on Ganson Ave. At 9:15, the plane's engine quit and the plane dove 100' head-on into the ground. There was no fire or explosion. Mr. Smith died instantly, and Mr. Kerr died at St. Jerome's Hospital in Batavia, later that evening. Corfu firemen and Corfu's Dr. Mclough responded to the scene. Both Mr. Smith's mother and wife watched the plane crash from their homes.

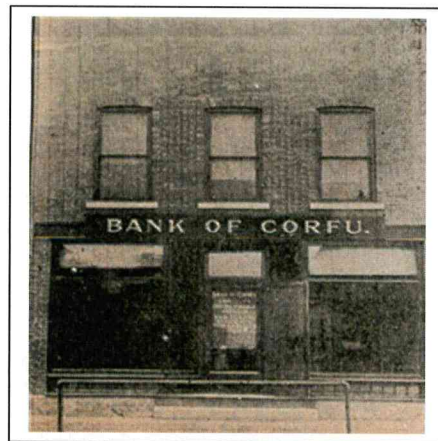
Corfu VFW

From 1946-1963, VFW Post 8642 operated in Corfu. It disbanded in 1963. The Corfu VFW Post 9000 was formed on June 4, 1980. For many years they sponsored the Corfu Memorial Day Parade. In the Summer of 2020, this Corfu VFW Post disbanded due to lack of membership.

-Al Starkweather



H. VandeBogart - 1912



It's that time again!

The Village of Corfu Board Election will be held on Tuesday,
March 16, 2021 at the Pembroke Community Center
12:00pm – 9:00pm



Offices to be filled are:
Mayor – 2-year Term
Trustee – 2-year Term
Trustee – 2-year Term
Judge – 4-year Term

All Caucuses will be held January 19th, 2021 at the 116 E Main
Republican – 6:30 pm Democratic – 7 pm

News from the Corfu Food Pantry

WOW! What a great

community we live in. **THANK YOU**
every one that donated to the food
pantry. We never could have kept up
with the increase without you.

In January 2020 we were all
thinking it is just the flu, what is all the
fuss about. In February 2020 we were
starting to get worried. In March 2020
we were shut down. People were losing
their jobs. The food pantry requests
started to increase. A simple plea for
help led to an unbelievable amount of
support. By April of 2020 and the months
to follow we were helping around 50
families each month with food. This was
only possible because of this community's
generosity. Again, **THANK YOU**.

So much was lost in 2020. Our
way of life was changed. We could not
have the community into our building for
the Hungry Bear Breakfast or our
Turkey Supper. These are not just fund
raisers for the Church. They are
community events that have been a
tradition for many years. We also could
not have our hotdog stand on Memorial
Day, the one day to offer free hotdogs
and a drink to say thank you for your
support.

Well, 2021 has arrived. We still
have a long way to go before it will be
safe to come together again. But I am
looking forward to the time when we can.
I hope that this year will bring healing to
all. Stay tuned and when it is safe, I hope
we can host a big celebration to say
WELCOME BACK AND THANK YOU!!

Paula Trapani

Food Pantry Coordinator

**A black drop box has been installed at the village office to the left of
the door and will be checked daily (weekdays)
This can be used for sewer bill payments and any other
correspondence.**



Congratulations to Steve Stocking, Pembroke Highway
Superintendent, on his retirement in January 2021.

Thank you, Steve, for all your years of service to our
community!

DOG OWNERS

Section 8, H of Local Law No. 1 of 1992 states it shall be unlawful for any dog owner to
permit or allow a dog to create a nuisance by defecating, urinating or digging on public or
private property other than the property of the said owner. This includes public sidewalks,
the Cemetery and the Library. **PLEASE CLEAN IT UP!**



**The Village is in dire
need of Election
Inspectors and planning
board members.**

If interested, please email
clerk@corfuny.com

Remember there is a
parking ban on Village
streets between the
hours of 2:00 am and
6:00 am from Nov. 1st to
April 30th.

Ideas and submissions for newsletter can be
sent to: Jennyeck2013@gmail.com